

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21 - 30 August 2007

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations
resolutions on the standardization of geographical names**

**Preparation of the Asia South East Pacific South West
Regional Gazetteer and Map**

Submitted by Australia and New Zealand **

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Preparation of the Asia South East Pacific South West Regional Gazetteer and Map

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Background

The Asia South East Pacific South West Division has in the past prepared two editions of a regional gazetteer.

The date of the preparation of the first edition is unknown, but the second edition was prepared by Malaysia in 1986.

In 1996, New Zealand prepared the first edition of a divisional map based.

At the 2003 Divisional meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, resolution 7 determined that an update of the gazetteer (3rd Edition) and map (2nd Edition) would be prepared and released in digital form. New Zealand offered to act as project coordinator and Australian offered to compile the gazetteer data into the map.

Composite Gazetteer (3rd Edition)

Each country was asked to update gazetteer data from the previous publications. The result of this exercise is that most countries provided more names that were originally shown in the 1st Edition map.

Countries from the Division that contributed data include –

Australia
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Malaysia
Myanmar
New Zealand
Northern Mariana Islands (USA)
Vanuatu

Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Western Samoa
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Vientiane Lao
Vietnam

Countries yet to contribute –

Bhutan
Nauru
Timor Leste
Tonga

Existing data has been compiled into three PDF documents, one in alphabetical order of all names, one grouped by countries and on composite document containing both other options. Any additional data can be added and new PDF documents can be prepared as it becomes available.

Regional Map (2nd Edition)

The regional map has been prepared using the United National Cartographic Divisions 1:10 000 000 world base. The map has been produced in two formats. One is a searchable PDF containing the same information as shown on the 2nd edition map. The second output is in Arc Reader format and will show all information contained in the gazetteer.

All named supplied are shown in the ArcReader product. Two scale points are used, the first for those names shown on the PDF map and the balance appearing at a suitable scale depending on the number of names and area of the relevant country. This can be broken up further if additional information is available from the contributors.

Future Directions

A number of improvements to the gazetteer and map have been identified and will be incrementally put into effect.

- As mentioned above, those countries that have not yet contributed be encouraged to do so.
- A bathymetric relief layer could be added – currently data suitable for the main body of the PDF map has been identified, but not detailed enough for the inset maps or the ArcReader output.

- Text on the products can be improved by assigning different font styles to the various feature types. This will require some rationalisation of the feature codes from each country, but this is not a lengthy task.
- Additional or more accurate internal geography can be used as provided by the contributing countries.
- Population ranges can be added to enable various symbols to be used for populated places. This will provide greater functionality and better linkages with the above mention UN Countries and Cities Map, on the basis that this map will only show centres with a population greater than a predetermined number. If the data in the regional gazetteer is comprehensive enough, it can then be used by the UN as the source of the information for its mapping purposes.

Distribution

Given that the aim of this product is the dissemination of correct place names, the following methods of distribution will be put into effect.

The Gazetteer and PDF map will be available freely to all users, downloaded from one or more web sites, preferably a site associated with all contributing countries.

The ArcReader product will be provided in two ways:

- As a data packaged output to ensure that the underlying layers are available to be used in the ArcReader output, but not available for any other use.
- In a manner where the underlying data is available to be used for other purposes.

The general release of the ArcReader product is the packages option, but some other users, such as the UN Humanitarian Aid organisation would benefit from being able to use the data in other ways. The packaged data could be available to be downloaded from suitable sites, and the unpackaged data available upon request.